

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 EUR-12 PRS-01 INR-07 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5981

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5993

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVID LE

SUBJ: BACHIR BITES THE BIG APPLE

REF: BEIRUT 5898 AND PREVIOUS

1. BACHIR GEMAYEL'S TOUR OF THE U.S. AND CANADA HAS BEEN GETTING STEADY AND FAIRLY HEAVY PRESS COVERAGE IN LEBANON, BASED ON WIRE SERVICE REPORTS (AP, REUTERS), SUPPLEMENTED BY RELEASES FROM THE PHALANGE PRESS OFFICE. ENGLISH LANGUAGE "IKE" NOVEMBER 25 CARRIED PHOTO SPREAD HIGHLIGHTING HIS ENCOUNTERS WITH MASSACHUSETTS' GOVERNOR DUKAKIS. RIGHTIST LE REVEIL AND "IKE" NOVEMBER 27 CARRY PHOTOS AND STORY ON BACHIR'S MEETINGS IN NEW YORK WITH THE "LEBANESE KATAEB ASSOCIATION," INCLUDING NUMEROUS QUOTATIONS FROM HIM ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS, PARTICULARLY ON THE PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON. (COMMENT: THIS IS EITHER VIOLATION OF OR EXCEPTION TO PHALANGE PARTY RULE, IN EFFECT SINCE SEPTEMBER, WHICH DESIGNATED PIERRE GEMAYEL AS PARTY'S SOLE ON-THE-RECORD SPOKESMAN.)

2. LE REVEIL NOVEMBER 29 REPORTS BACHIR HAD ARRIVED IN HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, WHERE HE WAS MET BY CROWD OF 5,000 PEOPLE. STORY SAYS THAT WHILE STILL IN NEW YORK, THERE WAS LARGE RECEPTION IN HIS HONOR "ATTENDED BY NUMEROUS OFFICIALS AND VARIOUS DIPLOMATIC PERSONALITIES
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ACCREDITED TO THE UNITED NATIONS." STORY SAYS ON NOVEMBER 27 "IN BROOKLYN HE PRESIDED OVER A CEREMONY OF OATH TAKING BY 1,500 AMERICANS OF LEBANESE ORIGIN WHO BECAME MEMBERS OF THE KATAEB PARTY." (COMMENT: THIS ONE MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.)

3. LE REVEIL DECEMBER 1 REPORTS BACHIR WAS MET BY "AN

ENORMOUS CROWD" ON ARRIVAL AT HOUSTON AND THAT VICE
GOVERNOR BILL HOBBY ATTENDED A DINNER IN BACHIR'S HONOR.

4. PHALANGE PRESS OFFICE, WHICH WAS IN TOUCH WITH BACHIR,
IN HOUSTON, NOVEMBER 30, TELLS US BACHIR REGARDS HIS
VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AS "THE
DECISIVE WEEK" OF HIS ENTIRE JOURNEY.
PARKER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Remarks:
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